

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-04 PRS-01 USSS-00 CIAE-00 INR-05

NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 SS-15 NSC-05

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:HGILMORE:MD

APPROVED BY EUR/EE:NGANDREWS

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EUR/P:WGEHRON

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S/PRS:SWAGENSEIL

----- 129068

O R 252247Z OCT 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, YO

SUBJECT: THREAT TO YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR'S LIFE

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 9:30 P.M. WASHINGTON TIME OCTOBER 24 AN UNKNOWN YOUNG MAN WHO SAID HE WAS 34 YEARS OLD AND SPOKE FLUENT BUT AMERICAN-ACCENTED, SERBO-CROATIAN TELEPHONED THE YUGOSLAV CONSUL-GENERAL IN SAN FRANCISCO FROM DALLAS. THE CALLER SAID HE HAD ATTEMPTED TO REACH THE YUGOSLAV EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON BUT RECEIVED NO ANSWER. HE SAID THREE ARMED MEN, PROBABLY USING FALSE NAMES, WHO REPRESENT THE COMMITTEE FOR LIBERATION OF YUGOSLAVIA, DEPARTED DALLAS FOR WASHINGTON, D.C. ABOUT 9:30 A.M. OCTOBER 24 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSASSINATING THE YUGOSLAV
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AMBASSADOR. THE PURPOSE OF THE THREATENED ASSASSINATION

WAS TO PROTEST THE ARREST OF WRITER MIHAJLO MIHAJLOV. THE GROUP WOULD GIVE GRANFIL AN ULTIMATUM -- FREE MIHAJLOV BY OCTOBER 26 OR THE VIOLENCE OF THE YUGOSLAV COURTS WOULD BE ANSWERED WITH VIOLENCE. THE CALLER SAID THE THREE-MAN GROUP HAD SENT A LETTER TO THE NEW YORK TIMES WITH A COPY TO THE YUGOSLAV EMBASSY STATING THEIR TERMS IN WRITING. THE LETTER WAS DATED OCTOBER 22. THE CALLER SAID HE WAS BORN IN THE U.S., HAD RELATIVES IN YUGOSLAVIA AND WAS OPPOSED TO VIOLENCE. HE CLAIMED HE HAD ACQUIRED HIS INFORMATION FROM "AN OLD EMIGRE". MEANWHILE, AMBASSADOR GRANFIL RECEIVED A PHONE CALL AT ABOUT 9:15 P.M. FROM A PERSON WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS A POLITICAL SCIENTIST FROM DALLAS WHO WAS WRITING A BOOK ON MIHAJLOV. THE CALLER FIRST SPOKE ENGLISH THEN SWITCHED TO AMERICAN-ACCENTED SERBO-CROATIAN. HE SAID HE WISHED TO MEET WITH GRANFIL TO DISCUSS HIS BOOK. GRANFIL REPLIED THAT HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO RECEIVE THE CALLER BECAUSE HE WAS BUSY MAKING PREPARATIONS TO DEPART FOR YUGOSLAVIA. GRANFIL ADVISED HIM TO DIRECT HIS QUESTIONS TO EMBASSY PRESS COUNSELOR NOVAKOVIC IN WRITING.

2. IN VIEW OF THE POSSIBLE THREAT TO GRANFIL'S LIFE, EPS ESTABLISHED FIXED POSTS AT GRANFIL'S RESIDENCE AND THE EMBASSY CHANCERY SHORTLY BEFORE MIDNIGHT OCTOBER 24. THESE POSTS WILL BE MAINTAINED AT LEAST UNTIL MONDAY WHEN GRANFIL DEPARTS FOR YUGOSLAVIA FOR CONSULTATIONS CONCERNING SECRETARY KISSINGER'S NOVEMBER 4 VISIT. THE FBI WAS APPRISED OF THE ALLEGED THREAT IMMEDIATELY AND IS TAKING APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATIVE STEPS.

3. YUGOSLAV COUNSELOR STRBAC INFORMED COUNTRY OFFICER FOR YUGOSLAVIA OCTOBER 25 THAT NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVE OF AXEL SPRINGER PUBLICATIONS HAD TELEPHONED EMBASSY PRESS COUNSELOR TO ASK WHETHER AMBASSADOR OR OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS HAD RECEIVED THREATS OR INFORMATION ABOUT THREATS FROM THREE EMIGRES. EMBASSY AGREED TO LOOK INTO MATTER AND REPLY IN ONE HOUR. EMPHASIZING THAT EMBASSY DID NOT RPT NOT WANT TO ISSUE STATEMENT WHICH WOULD DIFFER FROM GENERAL LINE TAKEN BY DEPARTMENT, STRBAC SAID EMBASSY PROPOSED TO TELL THE SPRINGER REPRESENTATIVE THAT "NEITHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE EMBASSY NOR THE AMBASSADOR HAD RECEIVED SUCH THREATS". THE EMBASSY WOULD ALSO INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT THREATS AGAINST YUGOSLAV PERSONNEL IN U.S. BY REMNANTS OF WORLD WAR II "PRO-FASCIST" GROUPS DO OCCUR OCCASIONALLY. COUNTRY OFFICER SAID DEPARTMENT COULD, IF QUERIED, TAKE LINE THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO DIRECT THREAT TO AMBASSADOR OR EMBASSY, BUT WOULD VOLUNTEER NOTHING ABOUT OCCASIONAL THREATS TO YUGOSLAV PERSONNEL HERE. MOREOVER, DEPARTMENT

TAKES EXCEPTION TO TERM "PRO-FASCIST". COUNTRY OFFICER SUGGESTED, AND STRBAC AGREED, THAT EMBASSY ADD A PHRASE TO ITS STATEMENT INDICATING THAT ANY THREATS RECEIVED BY YUGOSLAV EMBASSY ARE PROMPTLY REPORTED TO APPROPRIATE U.S. AUTHORITIES.

4. BEGIN FYI -- EMBASSY WILL INFORM DEPARTMENT IF AND WHEN IT RECEIVES COPY OF ALLEGED LETTER.

5. IN EVENT OF MEDIA INQUIRIES ABOUT ALLEGED THREATS, WE WILL RESPOND THAT WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY DIRECT THREAT TO AMBASSADOR GRANFIL OR YUGOSLAV EMBASSY.

DEPARTMENT WILL AVOID OTHER COMMENT ON SUBJECT. IF QUERIED ABOUT EPS PRESENCE AT RESIDENCE AND CHANCERY, DEPARTMENT WILL SAY THAT SUCH MEASURES ARE TAKEN AS PRECAUTIONS WHEN WE BECOME AWARE OF POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES INVOLVING EXTREMIST GROUPS. END FYI.

6. FOR BONN: WOULD APPRECIATE CABLE SUMMARY OF ANY ITEM FRG MEDIA MIGHT CARRY ON THIS MATTER. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 OCT 1974
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HGILMORE:MD
Enclosure: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: PFOR, PINS, YO, US
To: BELGRADE
Type: TE
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